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CIRCULAR No. 6.

HEAD-QUARTERS CONSCRIPT DEPARTMENT,
COLUMBIA, S. C., *April 1, 1864.*

I..In pursuance of the provisions of an act of Congress entitled: "An act to organize forces to serve during the war," approved February 17, 1864, and in obedience to General Orders Nos. 26 and 33, Adjutant and Inspector-General's office (current series), and to Circular No. 8, Bureau of Conscription (current series), the enrolment for military service during the war is hereby ordered of all white men, residents of the Confederate States, between the ages of seventeen and fifty years, who are not declared exempt by the provisions of said act.

II..Immediately on receipt hereof, Enrolling Officers will publish notices in their respective districts, requiring all persons liable to enrolment, between the ages of seventeen and eighteen, and forty-five and fifty, to report for such enrolment within thirty days from the day when the notice shall be given in the district. They will also publish notice declaring no longer of force all certificates of exemption issued by Enrolling Officers under previous acts of Congress (except exemptions of mail contractors, drivers of post-coaches and hacks, and on account of religious opinion), and ordering all persons holding such exemptions to report for enrolment under the provisions of the aforesaid act, approved February 17, 1864.

III..Enrolling Officers will at once proceed to select in their respective districts (under paragraph II, Circular Order No. 8, Bureau of Conscription) three persons of integrity, discretion, and judgment, to constitute an Advisory Board, to aid in the investigation of applications for exemption and detail for agricultural, industrial, and other necessary pursuits. The selection is limited to the class of persons between forty-five and fifty years who are liable to enrolment. Care will be taken to select men who are not open to popular influences, and who will discharge the duties with reference alone to the public interests. For obvious reasons, they should reside as near as practicable to the Head-quarters of the Enrolling Officer.

The persons selected will be immediately reported to these Head-quarters for appointment.

REGISTRATION AND ENROLMENT.

IV..The most active and continuous efforts of Enrolling Officers will be directed to perfecting a thorough *military registration* of all white males, resident or found within their respective districts, who are between the ages of seventeen and fifty years. This "Register" should embrace all men not already in service, no matter what may be their physical condition or claims to exemption, and should satisfactorily exhibit, under the head of "Remarks," the *status* of each person.

V..It is the duty of all persons within the ages designated to report for enrolment. Enrolling Officers will not, however, wait such voluntary reporting, but will make diligent inquiry as to persons, and will enroll on information such as they may be satisfied are liable to enrolment. Persons may be enrolled wherever found.

VI..Persons when enrolled will be ordered for examination by the Examining Board, to ascertain their fitness for field service or other duty. Those accepted between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, will be ordered to the Camp of Instruction. Those accepted for light duty, as also those who are enrolled for service between the ages of seventeen and eighteen, and forty-five and fifty, will be held under orders, to be assigned by the Commandant of Conscripits to such duty as may be authorized by existing orders of the War department.

VII..Supplementary to the "Register," every Enrolling Office will contain the following Rolls, to wit:

Roll I. Persons enrolled for examination by Examining Board.

Roll II. Persons exempt under acts of Congress.

Roll III. Persons rejected by Board for physical disability.

Roll IV. Conscripits between 18 and 45, enrolled for service.

Roll V. Conscripits between 17 and 18, enrolled for service.

Roll VI. Conscripits between 45 and 50, enrolled for service.

Roll VII. Conscripits enrolled and detailed.

Roll VIII. Conscripits recommended for light duty.

Roll IX. Volunteers reporting before enrolment.

The term "enrolled for service" is intended to embrace as well those who have been examined and accepted by the Examining Board, as those who may be ordered or sent forward without such examination.

VIII..When a person reports or is reported for enrolment, his name should be entered on the "Register," and inquiries made as to his age and liability to service. When the Enrolling Officer is satisfied that he is within conscript age, and without cause of exemption, an entry of this fact, *with date*, should be made on the "Register," under the head

of "Remarks," and the person be ordered for examination by the Board, thus: "*April 1, 1861, ordered for examination.*" This entry completes the enrolment. The date of the entry is the "date of enrolment," and should go with the name when transferred to Roll I and other rolls.

IX..Persons discharged from service are liable to enrolment. A discharge from service is not an exemption; nor does any physical disability, however obvious, amount to an exemption. All persons physically disabled should be registered, and hold exemptions from the Examining Board.

X..The age of a person at "date of enrolment," determines his liability to enrolment. Questions as to age should be determined by the Enrolling Officer, after careful inquiry and investigation. The family record, if genuine, furnishes the highest evidence, and if one is known to exist, the failure to produce it is suspicious. The testimony of the mother, if she be worthy of credit, should be overruled with great caution. Reference should be had to the census returns of 1850 and 1860, and to previous enrolments. The State enrolment of March, 1862, is of record in the State Adjutant-General's office, and can be examined on reference of the inquiry to these Head-quarters.

XI..The attention of Enrolling Officers is specially directed to paragraph III, Circular No. 8, Bureau of Conscription, requiring the immediate enrolment of all persons, within the prescribed ages, who are found in the employment of any department of the government, and who are not specially exempted by act of Congress.

XII.. *Volunteering*.—Persons hitherto exempt, and youths who have attained or are about to attain the age of eighteen years, will be allowed to volunteer, *before enrolment*, into companies which were organized prior to April 16, 1862, and which are below the minimum number prescribed by regulations. Certificates will, in such cases, be furnished by the Enrolling Officer, which, on being approved by the Commandant of Conscripts, will authorize the mustering in of such persons as volunteer recruits. Volunteering is governed in other respects by the provisions of General Orders No. 7, Adjutant and Inspector-General's office, current series.

EXEMPTIONS.

XIII..All exemptions heretofore granted under previous acts of Congress being no longer of force (except exemptions of mail contractors, drivers of post-coaches and hacks, and on account of religious faith), Enrolling Officers will proceed to the enrolment of all persons holding such exemptions who do not bring themselves within the provisions of the law of exemptions as it now stands.

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XIV..The following are the classes of exemptions now authorized by the act of Congress, to wit:

1. On account of physical disability.
2. Confederate and State officers.
3. Professions, trades, and occupations.
4. Overseers, or "owners and managers" of plantations of fifteen field hands.
5. Officers and employees of railroads.
6. Mail contractors and drivers.
7. On account of religious faith.

XV..All applications for exemption (except for physical disability, for Confederate and State officers, and railroad officers and employees) must be made to the Enrolling Officer of the district in which the applicant resides, and be supported by the affidavit of the applicant and other sworn testimony. If the application shall pertain to the exemption of a person not within the district in which the applicant resides, it should be referred, after investigation, to these Head-quarters for proper reference.

XVI..When an application is presented, the Enrolling Officer will carefully ascertain to which class it belongs, and will see that it embodies all the facts necessary to the exemption asked.

Applicants will be carefully and patiently advised and instructed as to the provisions of the law.

Exemptions must not be hastily granted, but only after careful and thorough inquiry into the facts. Applications should, therefore, be held until the Enrolling Officer is fully satisfied.

The state of facts existing at date of enrolment will determine all claims to exemption, unless otherwise declared by act of Congress, or by orders of the War department.

XVII..*Appeals*.—From the adverse decision of an Enrolling Officer on an application for exemption, an appeal may be taken to the Congressional district officer, and from him to the Commandant of Conscripts and to the Bureau of Conscription.

Before the case is sent up, an opportunity should be afforded the applicant to submit any additional testimony he may have. The Enrolling Officer will prepare a report as to the facts and reasons which influenced his decision, and send up the same, with the papers, to the Congressional district officer, who will forward them to these Head-quarters, with his remarks.

Pending the consideration of appeals, the parties must be indulged

XVIII..*Revocation of Exemptions*.—When an Enrolling Officer has

reason to believe that an exemption has been improperly granted, or is improperly held because of a change in the facts or circumstances, he will notify the party to appear on a given day and show cause why it should not be revoked. If no sufficient cause be shown, the exemption will be revoked, and the party be enrolled and ordered for examination.

From an order of revocation, an appeal may be taken in like manner as directed in preceding paragraph.

XIX..*Confederate and State Officers.*—A partial enumeration of this class will be found in paragraph XI, General Orders No. 26, Adjutant and Inspector-General's office, current series.

The following *State Officers* have been required by his Excellency, the Governor of South Carolina, as "necessary for the proper administration of the State government," to wit:

The Lieutenant-Governor; Judges of Law and Equity; Attorney-General and Solicitors; Ordinaries; Clerks of Courts and Registers of Mesne Conveyance; Sheriffs, Masters, Commissioners, and Registers in Equity; Secretary of State; Surveyor-General; Comptroller-General; Treasurers of the State; Officers of the State Military Academies; Officers of the Bank of the State and branches; Keepers and assistants of Lunatic Asylums, and of Deaf, Dumb, and Blind; members of Soldiers' Boards of Relief, who are over forty-five years of age, until next meeting of the Legislature; Private and Executive Secretaries; Adjutant and Inspector-General and his assistants; Governor's Aids; Tax-Collectors; State Auditors; State Engineer and assistant; Quartermaster-General, and Commissary-General.

The exemption of the above enumerated State officers having been approved by the War department, will be recognized.

Militia Officers, Magistrates, and officers of the State Provost Courts are not exempt. Collectors and Assessors of the Confederate War Tax are not exempt.

Certificates of exemption will be issued by the Commandant of Conscripts to officers of the Confederate and State governments, when desired.

XX..*Professions, Trades, and Occupations.*—Applications for exemptions of this class (under article III of the 10th section of the act of Congress) will be determined by the local Enrolling Officer. If satisfied that exemption should be allowed, he will issue the certificate, endorse his action on the application, and submit the same to the Congressional district officer for his approval.

By the term "physicians" is meant *regularly licensed, practising physicians*.

The proviso which requires that teachers shall have "twenty students or more" is considered to apply only to teachers of "schools," and not to teachers of colleges, theological seminaries, and academies.

Teachers who are employed merely as private instructors in families, can not be regarded as "teachers of schools;" and, although having, in the aggregate, twenty or more pupils in different families, are not entitled to exemption.

By the term "apothecary" is meant a *practical* apothecary, educated and trained to the compounding of medicines. It does not embrace druggists, or those who merely sell drugs.

The term "public hospitals" does not refer to military hospitals.

The continuity of professional employment of physicians and teachers will not be regarded as being interrupted by a period of absence in military service, provided the person was regularly engaged as a physician or teacher at the time of entering the service, and resumed the employment on being discharged.

XXI.. Overseers, or "Owners and Managers" of plantations of fifteen hands.—Applications for exemptions of this class must set forth: 1. That there are now, and were, on the 1st of January, 1864, on the plantation, fifteen able-bodied field hands (or more, giving the exact number), between the ages of sixteen and fifty years. 2. That the person whose exemption is asked was, on the 1st of January, 1864, the overseer, or the "owner and manager" (as the case may be) of said plantation. 3. That there is on the plantation no white male adult not liable to military service. 4. That the applicant is able and willing to comply with the terms and conditions on which such exemptions are authorized by the act. The form of bond will be found appended.

Before issuing certificates of exemptions of this class the applications must, in every instance, be sent up (together with the bond) to these Head-quarters for examination and approval, indulgence being given to the party until the application shall be returned.

It will be noted that the terms "owner" and "manager" are conjoined. Only those owners who, on the 1st of January, 1864, were in charge of and managing their own plantations, can claim the exemption.

Owners who, on the 1st of January, 1864, were absent in service, but have since been discharged, are considered as coming within the spirit of the act.

The presence of a "white male adult" on the plantation, who is incapable, by reason of mental or physical disability, of managing the same with a reasonable degree of efficiency, may be disregarded.

It is held, by the War department, that all persons enrolled during the month of January, or since, and who are at the Camp of Instruction

or otherwise within the control of the Conscription department, may claim the benefit of this exemption.

XXII.. *Officers and Employees of Railroads.*—Applications for exemptions of this class must be made to the Commandant of Conscripts, by whom the certificates will be granted. It will be the duty of Enrolling Officers to scrutinize continually and closely such employees, and enroll all, otherwise liable, who are without proper certificates.

XXIII.. *Mail Contractors and Drivers.*—Attention is directed to the act of Congress, herewith printed, entitled “An act to exempt contractors for carrying the mails, etc.” Enrolling Officers will see that applications of this class are in strict conformity with the provisions of said act.

Contractors who were appointed prior to date of enrolment as conscripts, are entitled to claim the benefit of the act.

Mail riders are not exempt.

Exemptions of this class, heretofore properly granted, are not revoked.

Enrolling Officers will specially report to these Head-quarters all cases where the personal services of the contractor are not employed in the execution of the contract, giving all the facts.

DETAILS.

XXIV.. By paragraph VI, Circular Order No. 8, Bureau of Conscription, it is ordered that the exemptions authorized by the fourth clause of tenth section, and by the eleventh section of the act approved February 17, 1864, shall be granted only as *details*; that is, the persons must first be enrolled, and if accepted for service may be detailed for definite periods.

The details authorized by the act are the following:

1. Details on account of public necessity.
2. Details of persons between forty-five and fifty years of age, on account of equity, justice, and necessity.
3. Agricultural details.
4. Details for government service.

XXV.. All applications for detail of conscripts must be made to the Enrolling Officer of the district in which the person applied for resides or is enrolled, unless he be at the Camp of Instruction, or on detail or furlough from the camp, in which case the application may be made to the Commandant of Conscripts.

XXVI..No application for detail can be entertained until the person has been enrolled. As evidence of this, as also to identify the individual, applications must in all cases be accompanied by a descriptive list *taken from the books of the Enrolling Officer*. In cases where the conscript is at the Camp of Instruction, or on detail or furlough from the camp, the descriptive particulars may be obtained from the camp books.

XXVII..Where the application is made to the local Enrolling Officer, he will, if he approve it, grant a detail of sixty days, and immediately thereupon endorse his action and forward the papers, through the Congressional district officer, to these Head-quarters for further action.

XXVIII..From an adverse decision on an application for detail, an appeal may be taken to the Congressional district officer, and from him to the Commandant of Conscripts and the Bureau of Conscription. The course of procedure in such cases will be the same as directed in paragraph XVII.

In cases of appeal, the persons applied for, if engaged in performing the duties on account of which the detail is asked, will be allowed to remain until final action. If otherwise, they should be sent to the Camp of Instruction.

XXIX..*Details on account of Public Necessity*.—These may be of tanners, millers, shoemakers, blacksmiths, and other mechanics; of employees of manufacturing establishments, or of persons of whatsoever class, whose personal services are necessary to the public generally, or to the particular community in which they live.

XXX..*Details of persons between forty-five and fifty, on account of Equity, Justice, and Necessity*.—These terms would seem to imply considerations of necessity affecting the individual or his family, of personal hardship, of humanity, or considerations of equity and justice resulting from special circumstances, from sacrifices to the common defence, or contributions to the government, or considerations of like character.

XXXI..*Agricultural Details*.—These may be “to ensure the production of grain and provisions for the army and the families of soldiers,” or of “overseers, farmers, or planters who may be more useful to the country in the pursuits of agriculture than in the military service.”

Applications of this class are authorized by paragraph XII, Circular No. 8, Bureau of Conscription, for the detail of one person as overseer or manager of two or more farms within five miles of each other,

having an aggregate of fifteen or more hands. Special attention will be given to the *schedule of terms* on which such details may be granted.

Enrolling Officers will carefully discriminate between applications for *details* of this class, and applications for *exemptions* under article IV, of the 10th section of the act of Congress.

XXXII..*Bonds*.—Forms of the bonds required for agricultural exemptions and details will be found appended. Great care should be required in the execution of such bonds, and applicants should be required, if necessary, to employ counsel for that purpose.

DETAILS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

XXXIII..Applications for details for service in any of the bureaus or departments of the government, or of contractors to furnish supplies to the government, or of artisans, mechanics, or persons of scientific skill to perform indispensable duties, must be made by the government officer for whose services the detail is asked, or with whom the contract is made. For the detail of employees of contractors, the application may be made by the contractors, but must be approved by the government officer with whom the contract is made.

XXXIV..The applications for details of this class must set forth the duties to be performed, the particular necessity for the personal services of the persons applied for, and the period for which the detail is asked. The action of Enrolling Officers on such applications will be directed by instructions contained in preceding paragraphs XXVI and XXVII.

XXXV..*Details to Bureaus or Departments*.—Persons (not artisans, mechanics, or of scientific skill) can not be detailed for service in any of the military bureaus, or in the Quartermaster's, Commissary, Ordnance, Conscription, or other departments of the government, or for any of the like duties, unless they be persons between the ages of forty-five and fifty years, or persons between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, who have been adjudged by an Examining Board to be unfit for service in the field, and capable of performing the duties for which their detail is asked.

XXXVI..*Details of Government Contractors*.—Details of contractors to furnish supplies to the government can only be made in cases where the *personal* services of the contractors are indispensable to the execution of the contract—which fact must be certified by the head of the bureau or department to which the contract pertains.

Such applications must set forth the nature and extent of the contract, and in what respect the *personal* services of the contractor are indispensable to its execution.

In view of the need of the government for men in the field, officers in making contracts should require of each contractor the highest amount of supplies of which he is capable, in order that the fewest number of details may be required. In their investigations, Enrolling Officers will ascertain whether the supplies agreed to be furnished are equal to the capacity or means of the contractor.

XXXVII.. *Details of Artisans, Mechanics, etc.*—The detail is authorized of such artisans, mechanics, and persons of scientific skill as may be indispensably necessary to the performance of duties in the military bureaus or departments of the government, or to government contractors.

The applications therefor must set forth the skill of the party applied for, the nature of the duties to be performed, in what respect his services are indispensable, and the time for which it is asked.

XXXVIII.. *Details of Employees of Contractors.*—These can only be detailed of such artisans, mechanics, and persons of scientific skill as may be indispensable to the execution of the contract. The detail to contractors of mere clerks, agents, laborers, or other persons who are not artisans, mechanics, or persons of scientific skill, is not authorized.

Applications of contractors for details can not be entertained unless approved by the government officer with whom the contract is made.

XXXIX.. Applications for detail of persons for other government purposes, not within the classes enumerated, may be made, investigated, and forwarded in like manner.

INVESTIGATION OF APPLICATIONS.

XL.. In the investigation of all applications for exemption or detail, Enrolling Officers will avail themselves of the assistance of the Advisory Board. Their local knowledge of persons, of the wants and necessities of particular localities, and their means of information, should enable them to contribute greatly to satisfactory investigation. Their co-operation will be continually required in the discharge of the duties imposed on Enrolling Officers.

XLI.. All applications for the detail of persons (for other than government purposes) rest upon the assumption that the public or private necessity is such as to require the detail. The government recognizes its obligation to respect the wants and necessities of the families of those who are in service, and of the destitute at home, and forbears to withdraw from the country those who can not be spared without producing want and suffering.

Enrolling Officers will, therefore, inquire: What is the public or private necessity which requires the detail? Can it not be met or supplied by other persons not capable of rendering military service? Is the person applied for able to meet or supply this want or necessity? Are his personal services indispensable?

It is very desirable that the agricultural interests should be fostered to the extreme limit consistent with recruiting the ranks of the army. The production of grain and provisions for the army is, moreover, equally as essential as the furnishing of men. But Enrolling Officers can not know the necessities or resources of the government, and their investigations must necessarily be determined with reference to the wants and necessities of the particular locality.

XLII..The investigation should not be confined alone to an examination of the application, or into the truth of the statements therein made, but inquiries should be instituted as to other facts, and information solicited of persons not connected with the application. All pertinent circumstances should be inquired into, such as the fitness of the party for the field; his ability or aptitude for the purposes of the detail; the condition of the family, whether any are or have been in the military service; and such other inquiries as may ascertain the merits of the application, and exhibit the necessity or want of necessity for the detail.

XLIII..It is pertinent to inquire into the past conduct of the individual in reference to the public interests. Has he evinced a public, unselfish spirit, and recognized the obligation to aid the government in its struggle, and to sustain the necessities at home? Have the products of his agricultural or mechanical industry been sold to the needy, to the families of soldiers, or to the government, at reasonable prices? Has he been disposed to sustain the country by giving credit to its currency? Or, on the contrary, has he withheld his hand, or used his past advantages for purposes of private emolument, and sought to enhance his gains from the necessities of the country?

A favorable report on these points will go far to recommend an application to favorable consideration, because furnishing the highest evidence that the public welfare will be subserved by the detail.

It is not proposed to recommend to the favorable consideration of the War department those who sell at exorbitant prices, or who refuse to sell altogether, awaiting higher prices, or holding as an investment. Such facts would exhibit the want of necessity for the detail, and demonstrate the propriety of assigning the party to the field, that he may share the wants and privations of those whose necessities at home have contributed to his gains.

XLIV..*Reports.*—The report of the Enrolling Officer on the investigation of applications should be written on a separate sheet of paper, with an outside blank page, and be sent up without endorsement.

It should be somewhat in detail, setting forth, in regular order, the facts developed in the investigation, and giving the reasons for the opinion expressed, as briefly as may be consistent with clearness.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF CONSCRIPTS.

XLV..*Appointments* for the examination of conscripts by the Examining Boards will be made in each district once per month, of which at least ten days' public notice should be given.

XLVI..*Two*, at least, of the members of the Board should be present at each appointment. One, however, may act in the absence of others, so far as to accept for service those whose cases are free of doubt. Certificates of exemption for disability can only be given by a full Board.

XLVII..*The Enrolling Officer* should himself be present at such examinations, and should note on his Roll (I) the result of each case, whether accepted or exempted. To guard, however, against inaccuracies, the Board will furnish to the local officer, before leaving the rendezvous, a list of the accepted and exempted, and of special cases not determined.

XLVIII..*The attention of Examining Surgeons* is directed to paragraphs VII and VIII, General Orders No. 26, Adjutant and Inspector-General's office, current series, and to paragraphs IV and XVIII, Circular No. 8, Bureau of Conscription.

XLIX..*A Special Board* (in pursuance of paragraph II, General Orders No. 107, Adjutant and Inspector-General's office, series of 1863) will be convened monthly, at the Camp of Instruction, for the examination of such conscripts at the camp as are believed to be "disqualified for service."

L..*The Chief Surgeon* assigned to duty at these Head-quarters is charged with the supervision of all matters pertaining to the medical department of the conscript service in this State. Examining Surgeons will communicate with these Head-quarters through him.

LI..*In view of the great number of conscripts* thrown into the Camp of Instruction who are found to be utterly unfit for any service—many of whom are discharged from the camp, and others discharged after being assigned to the army—the greatest care is urgently enjoined upon surgeons in the accepting of conscripts for service.

MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUCTIONS.

LII..Certificates of exemption or detail are of force only so long as the material facts remain unchanged, and the persons continue to be engaged in the pursuits or occupations in reference to which they were granted. A physician is exempted, not because he is a physician, but that he may devote his professional skill and services to the afflicted; a mechanic, that he may serve the community in the line of his trade; a farmer, that he may apply his labor and capital to the production of grain and provisions. Whenever, therefore, in these and other instances, the purpose of the exemption or detail is not met in good faith, the necessity for it ceases, and it should be revoked. Enrolling Officers should continue a careful supervision over all exemptions, and revoke those where the parties fail to devote their time, labor, capital, and skill to the purposes for which they were exempted or detailed.

LIII..When persons are reported to Enrolling Officers as liable to, and evading conscription, or as improperly exempted, a memorandum should be made of all the facts communicated, and immediate attention given to the matter. Persons are discouraged in giving such information when they find it receives no attention; and only by encouraging such communications can Enrolling Officers become informed as to such matters. All communications of this character, written or verbal, should be held in strict confidence.

LIV..The employment in the Enrolling service of able-bodied conscripts between the ages of eighteen and forty-five is strictly forbidden, either as clerks, assistants, or in arrest of deserters. No conscripts can be so employed except those between the ages of forty-five and fifty, and except those between eighteen and forty-five who are pronounced by an Examining Board to be unfit for field service, and who are specially assigned from these Head-quarters.

LV..By paragraph V, General Orders No. 96, Adjutant and Inspector-General's office, 1862, the Commandant of Conscripts is authorized to assign to enrolling service, and to the arrest of stragglers and deserters, "commissioned officers and soldiers who are incapable of bearing arms in consequence of wounds received in battle." Applications for details of this class should be made by Enrolling Officers to the Commandant.

LVI..Conscripts should not be sent to the Camp of Instruction until first examined and accepted by the Examining Board, or by some one of the members of the Board. Departures from this rule are in some

cases unavoidable, when persons have evaded examination, or would be much delayed from service by being held for examination. When they are sent up without examination, the fact and reasons should be promptly reported. It should never be done when the appearance of the individual clearly indicates unfitness for service.

LVII..Immediately upon a conscript being accepted, his name, date of enrolment, and descriptive particulars should be reported to these Head-quarters. Inattention to this duty is the cause of great embarrassment.

This report should state whether the examinations were made by a full Board, and if not, by what member of the Board. This should be indicated under head of "Remarks" opposite to each name.

LVIII..By the first mail after the close of each month, Enrolling Officers will send *directly* to these Head-quarters, and also to the Congressional district officer, a report of the month's transactions, giving the number and classifications of exemptions and of details; the number and classifications (as to age) of persons exempted for physical disability; of persons enrolled for service, and of persons accepted for light duty. With the report sent to the Congressional district officer will be forwarded copies of all the Rolls enumerated in paragraph VII, for his examination, and reference to these Head-quarters.

LIX..The proper discharge of the duties of the conscription requires of Enrolling Officers courtesy and patience. They should bear in mind that they are dealing with persons in reference to the tenderest relations of life. Their duties look to the separation of husbands and fathers from their families, and of sons from their parents. They should, therefore, avoid all petulance and harshness, and all seeming disregard of claims to exemption and indulgence; and should advise and instruct, and patiently and courteously listen to and investigate all such claims, so that, if ordered to service, the applicant may go forward feeling that his case has been rightfully determined, and that no privilege of right has been denied him. So feeling, he will become the better soldier.

LX..Enrolling Officers are strictly enjoined not to absent themselves from their districts without leave first obtained from these Head-quarters. Their duties, if properly discharged, will require their entire time and attention. They must regard themselves as in military service, and must ignore private interests and convenience as fully as do those who are in the field. Those who can not meet this requirement, should yield the position to those who can.

They will not overlook the fact that, in drawing their pay, they are

required to certify "on honor" that they have not been absent without leave.

LXI..Congressional District Enrolling Officers will exercise a rigid supervision of the local officers in their discharge of the duties of the conscription. They will visit each office in their respective Congressional districts monthly, and will report on the condition of the office, whether the books are properly kept, and as to the manner in which the duties are discharged. They will report for removal any officers who are found inefficient or delinquent.

C. D. MELTON,

Major, Commandant of Conscripts for South Carolina.

FORM OF BOND.—NO. 1.

FOR EXEMPTION OF "OVERSEER," OR "OWNER AND MANAGER" OF FIFTEEN FIELD HANDS.

[Under Article IV, Section 10, of act approved February 17, 1864.]

THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Know all men by these presents, That we [A. B.], *principal*, of ——— district, and [C. D.] of ——— district, and [E. F.] of ——— district, *sureties*, are held and firmly bound unto the CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, in the penal sum of [double the estimated value of produce to be delivered, in words, not figures] dollars, to be paid to the said Confederate States of America; for which payment, well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, and each of us, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Scaled with our seals, and dated this ——— day of ———, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty—

Whereas, the above bound [name of principal] has applied for the exemption from military service of [himself, or name of person exempted] as ["overseer," or "agriculturist," as the case may be], under the fourth article of the tenth section of the act of Congress approved 17th February, 1864, entitled "An act to organize forces to serve during the war," there being upon the farm or plantation of the said [name of owner of farm] for which exemption is sought [number in words] able-bodied field-hands between the ages of sixteen and fifty, within the meaning of said act; and which application is to be granted upon the satisfactory execution of this bond.

Now the condition of this obligation is such, that if the above bound [name of principal] shall deliver to the duly authorized officer or agent of the Confederate States, at [naming the railroad depot, or other sta-

tion agreed upon], or at such other place as may be directed by the Secretary of War, or his duly authorized officer or agent, within twelve months from the date hereof [number in words, not figures], pounds of bacon, or, at the election of the government, its equivalent in pork, and [number in words, not figures] pounds of net beef (said beef to be delivered on foot), to be paid for by the government at the prices fixed by the Commissioners of the State under the Impressment act; and shall sell the marketable surplus of provisions and grain now on hand, and which he may raise from year to year while this exemption continues, to the government, or to the families of soldiers, at prices not exceeding the prices fixed by the Commissioners of the State under the Impressment act; and shall, in all other respects, faithfully conform to the requisitions of the said act, under which the said [name of person exempted] is exempted, according to the true intent and meaning thereof (he being entitled to the commutation therein provided, upon compliance with the terms thereof), then this obligation to be void and of no effect, or else to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, sealed, and delivered
in presence of

[SEAL.]
[SEAL.]
[SEAL.]

FORM OF BOND.—NO. 2.

FOR DETAIL OF "OVERSEER" OR "MANAGER" OF TWO OR MORE FARMS.
[Under paragraph XII, Circular No. 8, Bureau of Conscription.]

THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Know all men by these presents, that we, [naming the owners of the several farms or plantations, and the district of their residence], are held and firmly bound unto the CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, in the penal sum of [double the estimated value of produce to be delivered, in words, not figures] dollars, to be paid to the said Confederate States of America; for which payment, well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, and each of us, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals, and dated this ——— day of ———, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty—

Whereas, the above bound [naming the several owners] have applied for the detail of [naming person to be detailed] as ["overseer" or "manager" as the case may be] of the farms or plantations of the said [naming the several owners] under terms prescribed by the Secretary of War, in pursuance of the provisions of an act entitled "An act to organize forces to serve during the war," approved February 17, 1864;

there being upon the said farms or plantations [writing number in words] able-bodied hands between the ages of sixteen and fifty, within the meaning of said act, which application is to be granted upon the satisfactory execution of this bond.

Now the condition of this obligation is such, that if the above bound [naming all the obligors] shall deliver to the duly authorized officer or agent of the Confederate States, at [naming the railroad depot, or other station agreed upon], or at such other place as may be directed by the Secretary of War, or his duly authorized officer or agent, within twelve months from the date hereof [writing number in words], pounds of bacon, or, at the election of the government, its equivalent in pork, and [writing number in words] pounds of net beef (said beef to be delivered on foot), to be paid for by the government at the prices fixed by the Commissioners of the State under the Impressment act; and shall sell the marketable surplus of provisions and grain now on hand, and which he may raise from year to year while this detail continues, to the government, or to the families of soldiers, at prices not exceeding the prices fixed by the Commissioners of the State under the Impressment act; and shall, in all other respects, faithfully conform to the requisitions of the said act, under which the said ——— is detailed, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, then this obligation to be void and of no effect, or else to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, sealed, and delivered
in presence of

[SEAL.]

[SEAL.]

[SEAL.]

FORM OF BOND.—NO. 3.

FOR DETAIL OF AS "OVERSEER" OR "MANAGER" OF FARM OF LESS
THAN FIVE HANDS.

[Under Paragraph XII, Circular No. 8, Bureau of Conscription.]

THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Know all men by these presents, That we [A. B.], *principal*, of ——— district, and [C. D.] of ——— district, and [E. F.] of ——— district, *sureties*, are held and firmly bound unto the CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, in the penal sum of [double the estimated value of produce to be delivered, in words, not figures] dollars, to be paid to the said Confederate States of America; for which payment, well and truly to be made and done, we bind ourselves, and each of us, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Sealed with our seals, and dated this ——— day of ———, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-

Whereas, the above bound ———— has applied for the detail of ———— as overseer [or "manager" as the case may be] of the farm of ————, under terms prescribed by the Secretary of War, in pursuance of the provisions of an act entitled "An act to organize forces to serve during the war," approved February 17, 1864, there being upon the said farm ———— able-bodied field hands between the ages of sixteen and fifty years, within the meaning of the said act; which application is to be granted upon the satisfactory execution of this bond.

Now the condition of this obligation is such, that if the above bound ———— shall sell the marketable surplus of provisions and grain now on hand, and which he may raise from year to year while this detail continues, to the government at prices not exceeding the prices fixed by the Commissioners of the State under the Impressment act; and shall, in all other respects, faithfully conform to the requisitions of the said act, under which the said ———— is detailed, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, then this obligation to be void and of no effect, or else to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, sealed, and delivered
in presence of

[SEAL.]

[SEAL.]

[SEAL.]

AN ACT TO EXEMPT CONTRACTORS FOR CARRYING THE MAILS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES, AND THE DRIVERS OF POST-COACHES AND HACKS, FROM MILITARY SERVICE.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the contractors for carrying the mails of the Confederate States shall be exempt from the performance of military duty in the Armies of the Confederate States, from and after the passage of this act, during the time they are such contractors; provided, that no more than one contractor shall be exempt on any one route, and that no more than one member of any firm of contractors shall be exempt, and no contractor on any route of less than ten miles in length, and on which the mail is carried on horse, shall be exempt under this act; and if any one or more members of any such firm be exempt, from age or other cause, from the performance of military duty, the other member or members of such firm shall not be exempt by this act on account of being mail contractors; and provided, further, that no person to whom a contract for carrying the mails may be transferred, with the consent of the Post-office department, after the passage of this act, shall be exempt from military service on that account.

SEC. 2. That the drivers of post-coaches and hacks for carrying the mails, on all routes where the weight of the mails requires that they should be carried in coaches or hacks, shall be exempt from military service in the Armies of the Confederate States, from and after the passage of this act, so long as they continue to be employed as such drivers; *provided*, the contractor by whom any such driver is employed shall take and subscribe an oath, to be furnished to the Enrolling Officer, that the weight of the mails on his route requires the use of coaches or hacks for their conveyance, and that he has not a greater number of drivers employed in his service than are indispensable to enable him to fulfil his contract for carrying the mails; and that he will not, while a contractor, employ a greater number of drivers than may be indispensably necessary for that purpose; and that he will give notice to the Enrolling Officer when any such driver ceases to be in his employment. [Approved April 14, 1863.]



BUREAU OF CONSCRIPTION.

Richmond, March 18, 1864.

CIRCULAR No. 8.

I. General Orders, No. 26, A. & I. G. O., March 1st, 1864, is herewith made a part of this Circular, and Commandants of Conscripts are enjoined to proceed to the rapid and vigorous execution of its provisions, under the instructions and interpretation herein prescribed.

II. Under the terms of the 8th section of the Act of Congress published in General Orders, No. 26, A. & I. G. O., and the terms of Circular No. 55, of the Bureau, last series, Commandants will proceed to organize the service in their respective States. In addition to the organization therein provided for, and in further pursuance of paragraph II, of the said General Orders, No. 26, Commandants will forthwith organize in each county a Board, to consist of not more than three of the most reliable and intelligent citizens, between the ages of 45 and 50 years, and who have been enrolled and detailed for the service. These Boards will be charged with aiding the local enrolling officer in obtaining information concerning all applications for exemption and detail, for agricultural or other industrial pursuits, and also in furnishing all other information which may be needed in the duties imposed upon the enrolling officers.

The local and congressional enrolling officer will be required to supervise the action of these Boards, and promptly report to the Commandant unfitness or delinquencies on the part of the persons detailed for them. So long as the duties are properly performed, the persons so employed will be exempted from other service. Care will be used in the beginning to select proper men; and in view of the grave duties herein devolved upon the enrolling officer, he will, at his discretion, require the written opinion of the Board on claims for exemption or applications for detail, and may call on them for special information concerning matters pertinent to the service. In every case referred by the local or Congressional district enrolling officer to the Commandants, an opinion as to the merit must be endorsed or accompany the case, and the like rule will be rigidly observed by Commandants in referring to this Bureau.

III. Commandants will order the immediate enrollment and examination of all persons within the prescribed ages, who are found in the employment of any department of the government, and who are not specially exempted by the Act of Congress; and such as are found fit for service

in the field, may be detailed until the 10th day of April next, provided an application is made according to the terms of the 6th paragraph of General Orders, No. 26, herein cited.

IV. Commandants of Conscripts will forthwith transmit to this Bureau, recommendations for physicians to be employed in accordance with paragraph IX, General Orders, No. 26, herein cited. Much complaint reaches this Bureau, concerning irregularities in the Medical examinations. Loose or irregular examinations must not be permitted, and Commandants will promptly report any well ascertained delinquency in the matter.

V. Forms for Consolidated Reports by the Commandants of Conscripts will be forwarded; also forms for the Records of the Congressional District, and Local Enrolling Officers. These records must be accurately kept, and the reports based on them must be in clear and intelligible form, or they will be returned for revision and correction.

VI. Persons and classes enumerated in the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th articles of section 10th, except those referred to in the latter clause of the 4th article of said 10th section of the Act of Congress recited, shall be exempted. All other persons referred to in said act shall be detailed.

VII. EXEMPTIONS BY EXAMINING BOARDS.

1. Persons who shall be determined by the Board of Examination to be incapable of performing active service in the field, and any of the duties mentioned in the 8th section of the said Act of Congress, from causes of a permanent nature, shall be exempted from military service by the said board, who shall grant certificates thereof; which shall specify the causes of the incapacity, reciting in full the nature and degree of the disease or other incapacity, and the probable duration of the disability caused by it; and the parties shall not be subject to future examination, unless specially ordered by the Board of the Congressional district in which such parties reside, or by the Commandant of Conscripts for the State, or by this Bureau.

2. When in the opinion of Enrolling officers the causes for which exemption was granted to a person, after examination by the Medical board, have ceased to exist, they will make a report to the Board, stating the name of the person, when enrolled, when examined, and the disease or other cause of disability, with the reasons for believing it to have disappeared, and that the person is capable of performing active service in the field, or some of the duties mentioned in the said 8th section of the act aforesaid.

The Examining Board will then order the party to be brought before it for a re-examination. When a person is re-examined by the Board, his former certificate shall be surrendered and cancelled. If again found unfit for duty, a new certificate of exemption shall be issued to him.

3. Every certificate of exemption granted by a Board of Examination shall be approved by the Congressional district enrolling officer, which shall protect the person exempted from molestation by the officers of Conscription, and from re-examination, unless the Board of Examination, or the Commandant of Conscripts or the Bureau of Conscription shall order the same.

VIII. EXEMPTION OF SPECIFIED CLASSES AND INDIVIDUALS.

1. Applications for exemption under the 3d and 6th articles of the 10th section of the act aforesaid, shall be made to the Enrolling officer of the county in which the applicant resides, who will thoroughly investigate the case, and if satisfied, by competent evidence, that exemption should be allowed, shall issue a certificate thereof; which must be submitted to the Enrolling officer of the Congressional district, for his approval.

2. Applications for exemptions under the fifth article of the 10th section of the act aforesaid, shall be made to the Commandant of Conscripts for the State, who will grant the certificate of exemption authorized by law, to continue during compliance with the conditions prescribed by said act. Exemption, except for the President, Treasurer, Auditor and Superintendent, shall not be allowed to any officers and employees of a Rail Road company, unless the President or Superintendent shall certify, on oath, that the parties applied for are indispensable to the efficient operation of such Rail Road; that the number of persons exempted on said Rail Road shall not exceed one for each mile thereof in actual use for military transportation; that the exempts for such road shall be reported by name and description, once a month to the Commandants of Conscripts for the State through which such road passes (or to the Bureau of Conscription), together with the names and descriptive list of any one who may leave the employment of the Rail Road company, or who may cease to be indispensable to the efficient operation of the said road.

3. The exemption of overseers or agriculturists on each farm or plantation upon which there are now, and were on the first day of January last fifteen able-bodied hands between the ages of sixteen and fifty, will be allowed for the space of twelve months, and the certificate of exemption shall be granted by the officer taking the bond required by law, upon being informed by the Commandant for that State that the bond is approved.

4. The bond required to be given upon the exemption of an overseer or agriculturalist, under the 4th article of section 10th of the said act, shall be taken by the enrolling officer of the county or District in which such party resides, with the advice and assistance of the temporary Board aforesaid. It shall be payable to the Confederate States of America, in a penalty double the estimated value of the products to be delivered to the government, and conditioned for the faithful performance of the requirements of the 4th article of the 10th section of the said act. The value of the said products shall be assessed by the Enrolling officer, who shall take the said bond, with the assistance of the said temporary Board, according to the market value thereof at the time and place of assessment.

The said bond may be secured by a deposit of the amount of the penalty thereof in notes issued from the Treasury Department of the Confederate States, with any of the depositaries of the said Treasury, or by personal security, the nature of the security to be at the option of the principal obligor in the said bond. Should the person so exempted elect to give personal security, the sureties tendered by him shall justify their sufficiency under oath before some justice of the peace, but shall not be accepted unless the Enrolling officer taking the said bond, under the advice of the said temporary Board, shall deem them sufficient. Such bonds shall, after due execution, be transmitted to the Commandant of Conscripts for the State, for file in his office, to be surrendered to the obligors when the conditions thereof are fully complied with; and the receipt of any Quartermaster or Commissary, specifying that the amount of produce required by the bond has been duly delivered and accepted, will entitle the person to have the bond cancelled; and copies of such receipts should be forwarded to the Commandant of Conscripts, to be by him forwarded to the Quartermaster General or the Commissary General, through this Bureau.

IX. EXEMPTION ON ACCOUNT OF RELIGIOUS FAITH.

Persons entitled to exemption as provided for in paragraph XII, General Orders, No. 26, A. and I. G. O., current series, will, on application, receive certificates thereof from the Congressional District Enrolling officer, on producing satisfactory evidence that they have complied with the requirements of the law.

X. EXEMPTION OF OFFICERS OF CONFEDERATE AND STATE GOVERNMENTS.

Certificates of exemption for officers of the Confederate and State Governments will be given by the Commandants for the States.

XI. INVESTIGATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION.

1. All other applications for exemption shall be made in writing to the Enrolling officer of the county or district in which the applicant resides; shall be supported by his affidavit and other sworn testimony, and dealt with according to the provisions of paragraph III of General Orders, No. 26, A. and I. G. O., current series.

2. Every application for exemption should be carefully, minutely and thoroughly investigated by the local Enrolling officer, with the aid of the temporary Board to be organized under the 2d clause of paragraph II of this Circular, and be thereafter transmitted to the Commandants of Conscripts for the State, with a report of facts, and their respective opinions on the merits of the application.

The report of facts should be somewhat in detail, setting forth in regular order the facts developed in the investigation, giving briefly the reasons for the opinion expressed, and instead of being put in the form of an endorsement, will be made on a separate sheet of paper.

The investigation should not be confined to an examination of the application and the papers that accompany it, or merely into the truth of the statements therein made, but should be directed with a view of ascertaining all the facts and circumstances of the case, and the exact condition of the parties with relation thereto.

XII. DETAILS.

Agricultural Details.

1. The officers of Conscription will give the most careful attention to the provisions of paragraph IV, G. O. No. 26, A. and I. G. O., current series, in connection with the last clause of the 4th article of the 10th section of the Act of Congress cited.

This paragraph embraces the whole system of details provided by law to maintain the industrial production of the country, in view of the public defence.

2. The investigation of every case presented must be the most precise and accurate which can be attained by the Enrolling officer (with the co-operation of the temporary Boards), and all action must be in direct view of the necessities indicated. Commandants will institute such modes of enquiry and report as will furnish the fullest testimony.

The policy of the law is to enforce the largest amount of production in every case in which the detail is made. The schedule of terms hereto appended will, it is believed, meet a majority of the cases that are likely to be presented. Where it is doubtful whether the case is covered by the

classification, Commandants will in general decide by reference to the plain intent of the law, or refer the matter to this Bureau, with full testimony and opinion. In all details there must be satisfactory evidence of the necessity, as expressed in General Orders, No. 26, current series.

Schedule of Terms.

3. Where there are two or more farms contiguous, or within five miles of each other, measuring from the homesteads, having on each five or more hands, amounting in the aggregate to fifteen hands, or where one person has two or more plantations within five miles of each other, having an aggregate of fifteen or more hands, there may be detailed one person as overseer or manager of the two or more farms: provided there is on neither of the farms a white male adult, declared by the Enrolling officer and the temporary Board capable of managing the farms with a reasonable efficiency, not liable to military duty: and provided the person detailed was, on the first day of January 1864, either owner, manager or overseer residing on one of the farms: and provided the owners of said farms shall execute a joint and several bond, on the terms prescribed for the owners of fifteen hands, except that such persons shall not be allowed the privilege of commutation provided in the 4th article of the 10th section of the act recited.

4. Where details are allowed to persons having less than fifteen, and five, or more than five hands, they shall enter into like obligation as prescribed for the owners of fifteen or more hands, except that for each hand less than fifteen, down to five, there shall be supplied five pounds less meat, thus: each of fourteen hands, ninety-five; thirteen hands, ninety; twelve hands, eighty-five; * * * six hands, fifty-five; five hands, fifty pounds.

5. Where details are allowed to persons having less than five hands, they shall enter into like obligations to sell all their surplus productions to the Government.

6. All details herein prescribed to be allowed are subject to revocation by the Commandant of Conscripts, on the report of the Enrolling officer that the person detailed is not habitually, industriously and in good faith engaged in the occupation for which the detail is granted. Enrolling officers are required to be unusually vigilant in supervising such details. Omission in this duty will constitute grave dereliction.

7. Enrolling officers are required to exercise the utmost caution in recommending details in the classes enumerated. It is by no means intended to grant them indiscriminately, but to limit them as much as is consistent with the public good. All pertinent circumstances will be

carefully enquired into. Among these are fitness for the field; ability or aptitude for the purposes of the detail; condition of the family; whether any, or how many are in the military service; public good, justice, equity or necessity, &c. &c.

XIII. DETAILS FOR PUBLIC NECESSITY.

Applications for details, such as are not required for the service of any of the military Bureaux, or for service in any of the Departments of the Government, including service with contractors, will be made, accompanied by a descriptive list, to the Enrolling officer of the appropriate county or District, and be supported by the affidavit of the applicant, and other testimony under oath.

The Enrolling officer will institute a minute and searching investigation into all the circumstances of the case, the result of which will be set forth on a separate sheet of paper.

The District Enrolling officer may, if he approves the application, grant a detail for sixty days, and forward the papers, through the Commandant, to the Bureau, for its action.

If the application is refused, the reasons in full will be endorsed; and in case of appeal, the papers forwarded to this Bureau, through the same channels.

If the persons for whose detail application is made are engaged in performing the duties on account of which details are asked, they will be allowed to remain until final action. If otherwise, they should be sent to Camps of Instruction.

XIV. DETAILS FOR PERSONS BETWEEN 45 AND 50, FOR GOVERNMENT WORK.

Applications for the detail of persons between forty-five and fifty years of age, for service in any of the military Bureaux, or in any of the Departments of the Government, will be made, accompanied by a descriptive list, to the local or district Enrolling officer; and it must set forth the nature of the duties to be performed, the necessity for the detail, and the period for which it is required.

The District Enrolling officer, after investigation made and reported as directed in preceding paragraph, may, if he approve the application, grant a detail for a period not exceeding sixty days, and forward the papers to the Commandant, for his action.

An appeal from the action of the Enrolling officers and the Commandant may be taken to this Bureau.

XV. DETAILS OF ARTISANS, MECHANICS, ETC.

1. Applications for the detail for service in any of the military Bureaux, or for any of the Departments of the Government (including contractors), of artisans, mechanics, or persons of scientific skill, to perform indispensable duties, should be made, with descriptive list, to the Enrolling officer. The skill of the party, the duties to be performed, and why his services are indispensable, and the period for which the detail is required, must be distinctly set forth.

Applications for the employees of contractors must, in addition, contain a certificate from the officer contracted with, or the head of the Department, that the services of the particular parties are required for the performance of indispensable Government work. The District Enrolling officer may grant the detail for sixty days, and forward the papers, through the Commandant (each expressing his opinion), to this Bureau, for its action.

If the application is refused, reasons in full will be endorsed, and in case of appeal, papers forwarded to this Bureau.

If the parties applied for are at work, they will be allowed to remain until action is taken. If otherwise, they should be sent to the Camps of Instruction.

Applications for the detail of contractors themselves must also contain the certificate of the head of the Bureau, required by the 11th section of the act.

XVI. All other applications for exemption or detail, not otherwise provided, will be made to the Enrolling officer, and forwarded through the proper channels.

XVII. Great care should be exercised in exempting or detailing able-bodied men between eighteen and forty-five.

No case should be acted on until after minute and thorough investigation as to the alleged private or public necessity, advantage, convenience, justice or equity, and as to whether persons not liable to service in the field may not be obtained.

XVIII. REPORTS.

1. Examining Boards, in addition to the lists directed in paragraph VIII, General Orders, No. 26, A. and I. G. O., current series, will furnish District Enrolling officers with lists of men in their districts found fit for military service, but unfit for service in the field, specifying in each case what duties they are capable of performing. Congressional District offi-

cers to furnish similar lists to county Enrolling officers, the object being to enable persons needing detailed men to see who are the subjects of detail, and to choose from them.

2. Enrolling officers will forward to the Commandant of Conscripits, monthly, a report of all persons enrolled by them, and the action taken in each case.

These reports will be consolidated by the Commandant, with reference to the distinctions made in the Act of Congress, and the regulations for its enforcement, in duplicate; one copy of which will be forwarded to this Bureau, and one kept on file in the office of the Commandant.

XIX. ENROLLMENT OF RESERVE CLASSES.

1. Commandants of Conscripits will proceed to enroll all persons between the ages of seventeen and eighteen and forty-five and fifty years, in execution of General Orders, No. 33, A. & I. G. O., current series; which is herewith made a part of this Circular.

"ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, March 15, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 33. }

1. The Bureau of Conscription will proceed to enroll all persons between the ages of seventeen and eighteen years, and between the ages of forty-five and fifty years, under the 5th section of the Act of Congress to organize forces to serve during the war.

2. Persons liable to enrollment will present themselves to the enrolling officer in the states east of the Mississippi river within thirty days from the day when the notice shall be given in the district or county by the enrolling officer for persons of this class to appear for enrollment. The failure to comply with this notice will subject the defaulter to a liability to be called into the general service with the class of persons between eighteen and forty-five, unless he shall have a valid excuse therefor, to be judged of by the Bureau of Conscription.

3. Any person liable to enrollment under this act may join any company for local defence which has been formed under General Orders, No. 86, issued 26th June 1863, for the war, or any other company for local defence which has been accepted into the service, and which, by the terms of its enlistment, is liable to serve any where within the state; or persons of this class may form new companies for local defence and

special service, under General Orders, No. 86 (1863), for the war, and select their own officers.

By order.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General."

2. Commandants will keep a separate and distinct roll of persons between the ages of 17 and 18 and 45 and 50.

3. Commandants of Conscripits will assign to duty, as a supporting force for Conscription service, such persons as may be recommended by the Examining Boards as unfit for the field, but as competent for this service; and when as many as sixty-four such persons are so assigned they will be organized into a company, elect their officers, and return the Muster Rolls to the Commandants; and if there be not a sufficient number to form a company in each Congressional district, then the Commandant may assign a sufficient number of persons between 45 and 50 years of age, so as to complete a company for each Congressional district. A competent officer, of the rank of colonel, will be assigned by this Bureau to organize such companies into a regiment, if there be the requisite number of companies; or into a battalion, if there be less than ten companies; or into two battalions, if deemed preferable.

XX. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Commandants will always bear in mind that General Orders, No. 26, is not only the basis, but forms a large portion of these instructions. They will habitually recur to its provisions, to aid in the application of the other provisions of this Circular.

2. Commandants will of course refer cases of difficulty to this Bureau; but references which bear on their face that they are rather to avoid due responsibility or labor, will be retained without remarks.

3. The duty of the Commandants of Conscripits is, in accordance with these instructions, to maintain and invigorate the industrial production of the Confederacy, and supply its armies with men. This duty must be performed, or our struggle for independence and liberty will fail.

By order of Col. J. S. PRESTON, Supt.

C. B. DUFFIELD,
A. A. General.

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, March 1, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS, {
 No. 26. }

The following Act of Congress and regulations are published for the information and guidance of all concerned :

An Act to organize Forces to serve during the war.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after the passage of this act, all white men, residents of the Confederate States, between the ages of seventeen and fifty, shall be in the military service of the Confederate States for the war.

SEC. 2. That all the persons aforesaid, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, now in service, shall be retained, during the present war with the United States, in the same regiments, battalions and companies to which they belong at the passage of this act, with the same organization and officers, unless regularly transferred or discharged, in accordance with the laws and regulations for the government of the army: provided, that companies from one state, organized against their consent, expressed at the time, with regiments or battalions from another state, shall have the privilege of being transferred to organizations of troops in the same arm of the service from the state in which said companies were raised; and the soldiers from one state in companies from another state shall be allowed, if they desire it, a transfer to organizations from their own state in the same arm of the service.

SEC. 3. That, at the expiration of six months from the first day of April next, a bounty of one hundred dollars, in a six per cent. government bond, which the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to issue, shall be paid to every non-commissioned officer, musician and private who shall then be in the service, or, in the event of his death previous to the period of such payment, then to the person or persons who would be entitled by law to receive the arrearages of his pay; but no one shall be entitled to the bounty herein provided, who shall, at any time during the period of six months next after the said first day of April, be absent from his command without leave.

SEC. 4. That no person shall be relieved from the operation of this act by reason of having been heretofore discharged from the army, where no disability now exists, nor shall those who have furnished substitutes be any longer exempted by reason thereof: provided, that no person heretofore exempted on account of religious opinions, and who has paid the

tax levied to relieve him from service, shall be required to render military service under this act.

SEC. 5. That all white male residents of the Confederate States, between the ages of seventeen and eighteen and forty-five and fifty years, shall enroll themselves, at such times and places, and under such regulations as the President may prescribe, the time allowed not being less than thirty days for those east, and sixty days for those west of the Mississippi river; and any person who shall fail so to enroll himself, without a reasonable excuse therefor, to be judged of by the President, shall be placed in service in the field for the war, in the same manner as though he were between the ages of eighteen and forty-five: provided, that the persons mentioned in this section shall constitute a reserve for state defence and detail duty, and shall not be required to perform service out of the state in which they reside.

SEC. 6. That all persons required by the fifth section of this act to enroll themselves may, within thirty days after the passage hereof, east of the Mississippi river, and within sixty days if west of said river, form themselves into voluntary organizations of companies, battalions or regiments, and elect their own officers—said organizations to conform to the existing law; and having so organized, to tender their services as volunteers during the war to the President; and if such organizations shall furnish proper muster rolls, as now required, and deposit a copy thereof with the enrolling officer of their district (which shall be equivalent to enrollment), they may be accepted as minute men for service in such state; but in no event to be taken out of it. Those who do not so volunteer and organize shall enroll themselves as before provided, and may, by the President, be required to assemble at places of rendezvous, and be formed into companies, battalions and regiments, under regulations to be prescribed by him, and shall have the right to elect their company and regimental officers: and all troops organized under this act for state defence shall be entitled, while in actual service, to the same pay and allowances as troops now in the field.

SEC. 7. That any person who shall fail to attend at the place of rendezvous, as required by the authority of the President, without a sufficient excuse, to be judged of by him, shall be liable to be placed in service in the field for the war as if he were between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years.

SEC. 8. That hereafter the duties of provost and hospital guards and clerks, of clerks, guards, agents, employees, or laborers in the commissary's and quartermaster's departments, in the ordnance department, and clerks and employees of navy agents, as also in the execution of the

enrollment acts, and all similar duties, shall be performed by persons who are within the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, and who, by the report of a board of army surgeons, shall be reported as unable to perform active service in the field, but capable of performing some of the above named duties, specifying which; and when those persons shall have been assigned to those duties as far as practicable, the President shall detail or assign to their performance such bodies of troops or individuals, required to be enrolled under the fifth section of this act, as may be needed for the discharge of such duties: provided, that persons between the ages of seventeen and eighteen shall not be assigned to these duties: provided farther, that nothing contained in this act shall be so construed as to prevent the President from detailing artizans, mechanics or persons of scientific skill to perform indispensable duties in the departments or bureaux herein mentioned.

SEC. 9. That any quartermaster or assistant quartermaster, commissary or assistant commissary (other than those serving with regiments and brigades in the field), or officer in the ordnance bureau, or navy agent, or provost marshal, or officer in the conscript service, who shall hereafter employ or retain in his employment any person in any of their said departments or bureaux, or in any of the duties mentioned in the eighth section of this act, in violation of the provisions hereof, shall, on conviction thereof, by a court martial or military court, be cashiered; and it shall be the duty of any department or district commander, upon proof by the oath of any credible person, that any such officer has violated this provision, immediately to relieve such officer from duty; and said commander shall take prompt measures to have him tried for such offence; and any commander as aforesaid failing to perform the duties enjoined by this section, shall, upon being duly convicted thereof, be dismissed from the service.

SEC. 10. That all laws granting exemptions from military service be and the same are hereby repealed, and hereafter none shall be exempted except the following:

I. All who shall be held unfit for military service, under rules to be prescribed by the Secretary of War:

II. The Vice President of the Confederate States; the members and officers of congress and of the several state legislatures, and such other confederate and state officers as the President or the governors of the respective states may certify to be necessary for the proper administration of the confederate or state governments, as the case may be.

III. Every minister of religion authorized to preach according to the rules of his church, and who, at the passage of this act, shall be regu-

larly employed in the discharge of his ministerial duties; superintendents and physicians of asylums of the deaf, dumb and blind and of the insane; one editor for each newspaper being published at the time of the passage of this act, and such employees as said editor may certify on oath to be indispensable to the publication of such newspaper; the public printer of the confederate and state governments, and such journeymen printers as the said public printer shall certify on oath to be indispensable to perform the public printing; one skilled apothecary in each apothecary store, who was doing business as such apothecary on the tenth day of October eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and has continued said business, without intermission, since that period; all physicians over the age of thirty years, who now are, and for the last seven years have been, in the actual and regular practice of their profession; but the term physician shall not include dentists; all presidents and teachers of colleges, theological seminaries, academies and schools, who have been regularly engaged as such for two years next before the passage of this act: provided, that the benefit of this exemption shall extend to those teachers only whose schools are composed of twenty students or more; all superintendents of public hospitals established by law before the passage of this act, and such physicians and nurses therein as such superintendent shall certify on oath to be indispensable to the proper and efficient management thereof.

IV. There shall be exempt one person as overseer or agriculturist on each farm or plantation upon which there are now, and were, upon the first day of January last, fifteen able-bodied field hands, between the ages of sixteen and fifty, upon the following conditions: 1. This exemption shall only be granted in cases in which there is no white male adult on the farm or plantation, not liable to military service, nor unless the person claiming the exemption was, on the first day of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, either the owner and manager, or overseer of said plantation; but in no case shall more than one person be exempted for one farm or plantation. 2. Such person shall first execute a bond, payable to the Confederate States of America, in such form, and with such security, and in such penalty, as the Secretary of War may prescribe, conditioned that he will deliver to the government, at some rail road depot, or such other place or places as may be designated by the Secretary of War, within twelve months then next ensuing, one hundred pounds of bacon, or, at the election of the government, its equivalent in pork, and one hundred pounds of net beef (said beef to be delivered on foot) for each able-bodied slave on the farm or plantation, within the above said ages, whether said slaves be worked in the field or not; which

said bacon or pork and beef shall be paid for by the government at the prices fixed by the commissioners of the state under the impressment act: provided, that when the person thus exempted shall produce satisfactory evidence that it has been impossible for him, by the exercise of proper diligence, to furnish the amount of meat thus contracted for, and leave an adequate supply for the subsistence of those living on said farm or plantation, the Secretary of War shall direct a commutation of the same to the extent of two-thirds thereof in grain or other provisions, to be delivered by such person as aforesaid, at equivalent rates. 3. Such person shall further bind himself to sell the marketable surplus of provisions and grain now on hand, and which he may raise from year to year, while his exemption continues, to the government or to the families of soldiers, at prices fixed by the commissioners of the state under the impressment act: provided, that any person, exempted as aforesaid, shall be entitled to a credit of twenty-five per cent. on any amount of meat which he may deliver within three months from the passage of this act: provided further, that persons coming within the provisions of this exemption shall not be deprived thereof by reason of having been enrolled since the first day of February eighteen hundred and sixty-four.

In addition to the foregoing exemptions, the Secretary of War, under the direction of the President, may exempt or detail such other person as he may be satisfied ought to be exempted on account of public necessity, and to insure the production of grain and provisions for the army and the families of soldiers. He may also grant exemptions or details, on such terms as he may prescribe, to such overseers, farmers or planters as he may be satisfied will be more useful to the country in the pursuits of agriculture than in the military service: provided, that such exemptions shall cease whenever the farmer, planter or overseer shall fail diligently to employ, in good faith, his own skill, capital and labor exclusively in the production of grain and provisions, to be sold to the government and the families of soldiers at prices not exceeding those fixed at the time for like articles by the commissioners of the state under the impressment act.

V. The president, treasurer, auditor and superintendent of any rail road company engaged in transportation for the government, and such officers and employees thereof as the president or superintendent shall certify, on oath, to be indispensable to the efficient operation of such rail road: provided, that the number of persons exempted by this act on any rail road shall not exceed one for each mile of such road in actual use for military transportation, and said exempts shall be reported by name and description, with the names of any who may have left the employment

of said company, or who may cease to be indispensable to the efficient operation of its road, at least once a month, to the Secretary of War, or such officer as he may designate for that purpose: and provided further, that such president or superintendent shall, in each such monthly report, certify on oath, that no person liable to military service has been employed by his company since the passage of this act, in any position in which it was practicable to employ one not liable to military service, and capable of performing efficiently the duties of such position. And in cases where rail roads have fallen into the hands of the enemy, and a portion of the rolling stock of such roads is being used on other roads not in the enemy's hands, the president and superintendent of said first named roads shall be exempt.

VI. That nothing herein contained shall be construed as repealing the act approved April fourteenth, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, entitled an act to exempt contractors for carrying the mails of the Confederate States, and the drivers of post coaches and hacks, from military service: provided, that the exemptions granted under this act shall only continue whilst the persons exempted are actually engaged in their respective pursuits or occupations.

SEC. 11. That the President be and he is hereby authorized to grant details, under general rules and regulations to be issued by the war department, either from persons between forty-five and fifty years of age, or from the army in the field, in all cases when, in his judgment, justice, equity and necessity require such details; and he may revoke such orders of details whenever he thinks proper: provided, that the power herein granted to the President to make details and exemptions shall not be construed to authorize the exemption or detail of any contractor for furnishing supplies of any kind to the government, by reason of said contract, unless the head or secretary of the department making such contract shall certify that the personal services of said contractor are indispensable to the execution of the contract: provided further, that when any such contractor shall fail diligently and faithfully to proceed with the execution of such contract, his exemption or detail shall cease.

SEC. 12. That in appointing local boards of surgeons for the examination of persons liable to military service, no member composing the same shall be appointed from the county or enrolling district in which they are required to make such examination.

Approved February 17, 1864.

I. The superintendence of the measures necessary for the enrollment, examination, enlistment, assignment, detail and exemption of all persons.

not belonging to the army, in the states east of the Mississippi river, who are placed in the military service by the above act of congress, is devolved on the Bureau of Conscription; and all officers and persons assigned or to be employed in the conscription service, or upon other duty imposed upon the bureau, will be subject to its orders, and their various acts and decisions may be revised therein, under the orders and instructions of the War Department.

II. The Bureau of Conscription, under the orders of the department, will proceed to organize, in every state, efficient agencies for the performance of the necessary duties imposed by this order. These agencies will consist of a commandant of conscripts in each state, a suitable number of camps of instruction, under the charge of commanders, and enrolling officers, and drill-masters, to be appointed or assigned under acts of congress or the orders of the War Department. The Bureau of Conscription will, by instructions to these officers, designate the duties that they shall perform, the reports that they shall make, and will determine the effect of their certificates and other official evidence they may be required to give.

In the performance of the duties of making exemptions and details, the Bureau of Conscription may from time to time, organize within the states temporary boards to obtain information and advice relative to the necessity or propriety of exemptions or details to be granted under the provisions of the above act of congress.

III. All applications for exemption or detail under this act, except as hereafter excepted, and except such details as are required for the service of any of the military bureaux, or for service in any of the departments of the government, will be made in writing to the enrolling officer of the appropriate county or district, and be supported by the affidavit of the applicant and other testimony under oath. The enrolling officer will endorse his opinion on each and every application, and transmit it to the commandant of conscripts for his approval, with a certificate or approval. If the enrolling officer approve the application, he may grant a certificate of exemption for a period not exceeding 60 days, which shall remain in force for that period unless countermanded by the commandant of conscripts. Every applicant for exemption or detail, whose claim shall be refused by the enrolling officer and commandant of conscripts, will be allowed an appeal to the Bureau of Conscription and the War Department. But until the application has been made to the enrolling officer and the commandant of conscripts, applications will not be entertained by the War Department.

IV. Applications for exemptions to insure the production of provisions for the army and families of soldiers, and for the exemption of overseers, farmers or planters, or because their services will be more useful to the public as agriculturists than in the military service, or of persons between the ages of 45 and 50, because justice, equity or necessity require the detail, or because their employment is necessary to the public, will be made to the enrolling officer in writing, with an affidavit of the person making it, and accompanied with proof of one or more credible witnesses. The application should show with precision the conditions of the alleged private or public necessity, advantage, convenience, justice or equity. Among the facts to be stated are the ability of the party to produce the provisions or supply the want or requirement, the condition of the family, whether any of the members belong to the army, and whether some person not liable to military service cannot be procured to perform the service. If the decision of the local enrolling officer be favorable, he will transmit the same to the commandant of conscripts for approval, who may, if he approve, grant an exemption or detail for 60 days, and endorse his action thereon, which will be transmitted to the Bureau of Conscription. The bureau will prepare special instructions to guide the action of those officers in reference to this class of cases.

V. Applications for certificates of exemption under the 3d article, 10th section of the act aforesaid, and 6th article of the same section, will be made in all cases to the local enrolling officer, and his certificate must be approved by the congressional district enrolling officer. Applications for exemption under the 5th article of the 10th section, relative to the exemption of officers and agents employed on rail roads may be made directly to the commandant of conscripts for the state, who will grant the certificate of exemption authorized by law, upon compliance with the conditions contained in the act of congress, by the officers therein mentioned.

VI. The attention of all officers of the government, and especially of those belonging to the military departments mentioned therein, is directed to the language and purport of the 8th section of the act of congress above recited. Congress has manifested, in various enactments, the policy to withdraw from the civil service all persons capable of performing duty in the field, and this section of the act is an emphatic declaration of that intention, accompanied with a severe penalty to be imposed upon the officer who may frustrate it. The Bureau of Conscription will proceed to enroll for duty all persons who may be so employed. But, to prevent the inconvenience and disorder that would follow from the instantaneous execution of the law, details may be granted until the 10th day of April next, for such of those persons as the head of any de-

partment, or the chief of any bureau, or the principal officer of the same in any state, shall certify to be necessary for that time to carry on the business in which they are employed. In the mean time, it is made the duty of the officers controlling this class of persons, to substitute, as far as practicable, persons who are designated in this act as proper to fill such employments for those that are made liable to service by the act.

VII. Conscripts unfit for duty in the field, but capable of performing other duties named in the 8th section of the act recited, will be received and recommended accordingly by the board of examiners for conscripts, who, in their reports, will state distinctly for what service, or for which department of the army, such conscripts are best fitted; and commandants of conscripts will assign them in accordance with such recommendation; or, failing to do this, will report for assignment through the Bureau of Conscription, to the chief or head of the department in which they have been recommended for service, the names of such conscripts. All certificates of exemption for disability will be signed by the examining board, and be approved by the enrolling officer of the congressional district; and when the certificate sets forth that the disability is decided and permanent, it will exempt the party from molestation by enrolling officers, unless otherwise ordered from the Bureau of Conscription.

VIII. The Examining Boards will forward one copy of the monthly report of conscripts examined, through the enrolling officer of the congressional district, to the commandant of conscripts, who will refer the same, with remarks, to the Bureau of Conscription. The boards will also forward one copy direct to the Surgeon General.

IX. Medical officers and employed physicians on Examining Boards for conscripts will not be assigned to congressional districts of which they are resident. The employed physicians will receive the pay and allowances of assistant surgeons.

X. Medical officers detailed for duty on Examining Boards for conscripts will be directed to report for orders to the commandant of conscripts of states.

XI. Besides the officers of the confederate and state governments particularly named in the act of congress, the officers of the government of the Confederate States whose nominations have been made by the President and confirmed by the senate, or who have been appointed by the judges of the district courts, under the authority confided by any act of congress, will be exempted from military service until further orders. Also the judges or justices of any supreme, superior or circuit court of any state; also the judges of probate, clerk of any court of record, ordinary, sheriff, one tax collector in each county, and recorder of deeds and